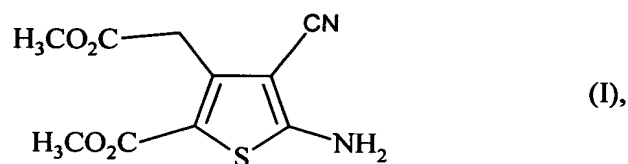


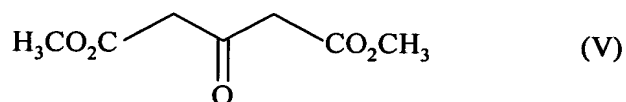
LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

9. A process for the industrial the synthesis of the compound of formula (I) :



wherein dimethyl 3-oxoglutarate of formula (V) :



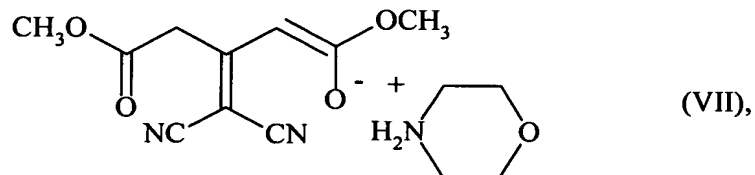
5 is reacted with malononitrile of formula (VI) :



in methanol,

in the presence of morpholine in an amount greater than 0.95 mol per mol of compound of formula (V),

10 to yield the compound of formula (VII) :



which is then reacted with sulphur in an amount greater than 0.95 mol per mol of compound of formula (V);
the reaction mixture is then heated at reflux;
and the compound of formula (I) thereby obtained is isolated by precipitation in the presence of water, followed by filtration.

5

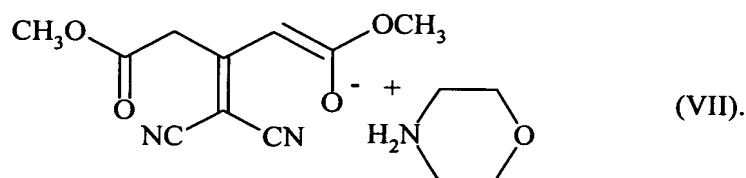
10. The synthesis process of claim 9, wherein the amount of methanol is from 1 to 3 ml per gram of compound of formula (V).

11. The synthesis process of claim 9, wherein the temperature of reaction between the compounds of formulae (V) and (VI) is less than 50°C.

10 12. The synthesis process of claim 9, wherein the reaction time at reflux after addition of the sulphur is from 1 hour 30 minutes to 3 hours.

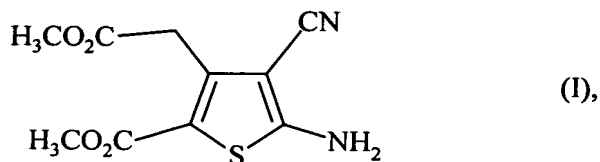
13. The compound which is Methyl 5-amino-4-cyano-3-(2-methoxy-2-oxoethyl)-2-thiophenecarboxylate.

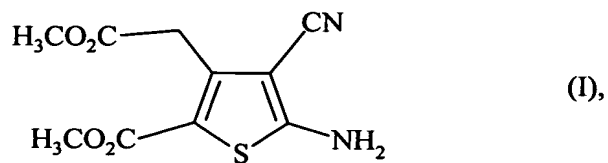
14. The compound of formula (VII) :



15

15. The process for the the synthesis of ranelic acid, its strontium, calcium or magnesium salts and hydrates of the salts, starting from a compound of formula (I) :

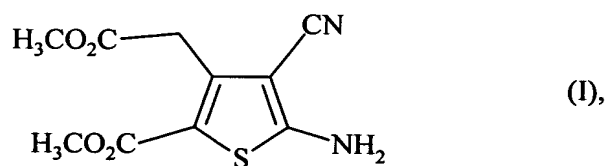




which is reacted with an ester of bromoacetic acid to yield the corresponding tetraester, which is converted into ranelic acid or a strontium, calcium or magnesium salt thereof,

5 wherein the compound of formula (I) is obtained by the synthesis process of claim 9.

16. The process for the the synthesis of strontium ranelate and its hydrates, starting from a compound of formula (I) :



10 which is reacted with an ester of bromoacetic acid to yield the corresponding tetraester, which is converted into strontium ranelate, wherein the compound of formula (I) is obtained by the process of claim 9.